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Title : Regarding expeditious completion of four lanning of National Highways 41 and sanction for six lanning of National Highway 6.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): I think, construction of four-laning of national highways is getting much delayed. I am giving some very important examples. Our Minister is also present here. National Highway 41 is part of port connectivity programme. The progress of construction on that road is very slow. More than three years have passed and only 25 per cent construction work has been completed. National Highway 6 is part of the Golden Quadrilateral. The progress of construction on this road is also very poor. So many bridges remain incomplete. I think, the contractors, which had been selected during the NDA regime, are totally bankrupt. I think, their credentials had not been checked. These contractors cannot undertake such type of works[reporter25].

We want the speedy completion of the four-laning of National Highway 41, which is a part of the port connectivity project. Otherwise, Haldia, which is a leading industrial hub, is suffering a lot because there is traffic jam and congestion everyday.

MR. SPEAKER: You are lucky that the Minister is here.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : The hon. Minister visited Haldia.

MR. SPEAKER: It is for him and I would not force him to respond to you.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : He will certainly accept my proposal and will take appropriate action to speed up the work. I also seek his approval for six-laning of National Highway 6 and National Highway 41.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat. I want to make the position very clear. Any hon. Member defying the Chair does not get any benefit. I will ask the Minister not to respond to him.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : I will finish in two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot take indefinite time.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : I will request the hon. Minister, Shri T.R. Baalu, who is present here, to take steps to complete the construction of the four-laning and give sanction for six-laning of National Highway 6 and National Highway 41.

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for him and I am not stopping him because it is first time.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Actually, Shri Lakshman Seth may be knowingâ€¦

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, he is making life miserable already.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: No, Sir, they are all my good old friends. Actually, I have visited Haldia and taken serious note of the matter. Definitely, National Highways 41 and 6 will be receiving a lot of attention in due course of time. I will see that both the roads are completed as soon as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Along with mine.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: That is my priority.

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